

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 161
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Seniors, Families and Public Health, February 8, 2007, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

0508S.02C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To amend chapter 210, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to quality rating system for child care facilities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 210, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 210.205, to read as follows:

210.205. 1. By September 1, 2007, the department of social services in collaboration with the departments of health and senior services, elementary and secondary education, and mental health shall develop a quality rating system for licensed child care facilities, early childhood, and before- and after-school programs operated in this state. Such ratings shall be built upon Missouri's current system of licensing and regulation. The base level of the rating system shall be licensing, and the highest level of the rating system shall include accreditation by a state or nationally recognized accrediting agency. The department of social services shall utilize the model from the existing Missouri quality rating system pilots developed by the University of Missouri Center for Family Policy and Research, or any successor organization, to establish this system.

2. The quality rating system shall:

(1) Provide information for consumers and parents to evaluate and select high quality programs;

(2) Create an accountability system for policymakers and those who fund early childhood and before- and after-school programs;

(3) Guide providers through a system of ever increasing levels of quality with specific outcomes.

21 3. By July 1, 2014, one hundred percent of all licensed child care
22 facilities shall be rated using the quality rating system established
23 under this section. The coordinating board for early childhood,
24 established under section 210.102, shall develop a plan for a tiered
25 system of reimbursement for child care subsidies based on the quality
26 rating system established under this section. The plan shall be
27 submitted to the general assembly with recommendations for
28 implementation of the reimbursement system, to begin July 1, 2009.

29 4. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Early
30 Childhood Program Quality Improvement Grant Fund", which shall
31 consist of all gifts, donations, transfers, moneys appropriated by the
32 general assembly, and bequests to the fund. The state treasurer shall
33 be custodian of the fund and shall approve disbursements from the
34 fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Upon
35 appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the
36 administration of this section to provide grants directly to licensed
37 providers seeking assistance for quality improvements to undergo
38 evaluation under the quality rating system established under this
39 section or to community-based organizations assisting providers with
40 such improvements. The fund shall be administered by the department
41 of social services. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080,
42 RSMo, to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of
43 the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue
44 fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same
45 manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned
46 on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

47 5. The departments of social services in collaboration with the
48 departments of health and senior services and elementary and
49 secondary education shall be responsible for:

50 (1) Collecting and distributing resource materials to educate the
51 public and child care and early childhood providers about the quality
52 rating system established under this section;

53 (2) Developing and distributing educational materials, including
54 but not limited to brochures and other media as part of a
55 comprehensive public relations campaign about the useful and
56 informational system of assessing the quality of child care and early
57 childhood programs in Missouri; and

58 **(3) Posting the ratings of the quality rating system on the**
59 **Internet in a format easily understood and accessible by the public by**
60 **January 1, 2009.**

61 **6. The department of social services shall promulgate rules to**
62 **implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule,**
63 **as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under**
64 **the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it**
65 **complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536,**
66 **RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and**
67 **chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested**
68 **with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to**
69 **delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**
70 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking**
71 **authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2007, shall**
72 **be invalid and void.**

73 **7. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:**

74 **(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this**
75 **section shall automatically sunset six years after the effective date of**
76 **this section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and**

77 **(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized**
78 **under this section shall automatically sunset six years after the**
79 **effective date of the reauthorization of this section; and**

80 **(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the**
81 **calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the**
82 **program authorized under this section is sunset.**

Copy ✓